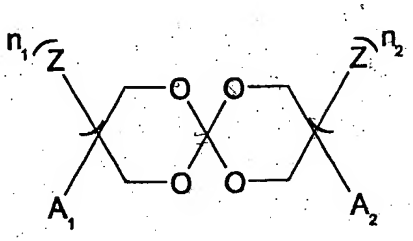
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

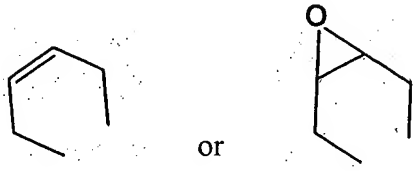
1 – 15: (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended): A compound of the structure:



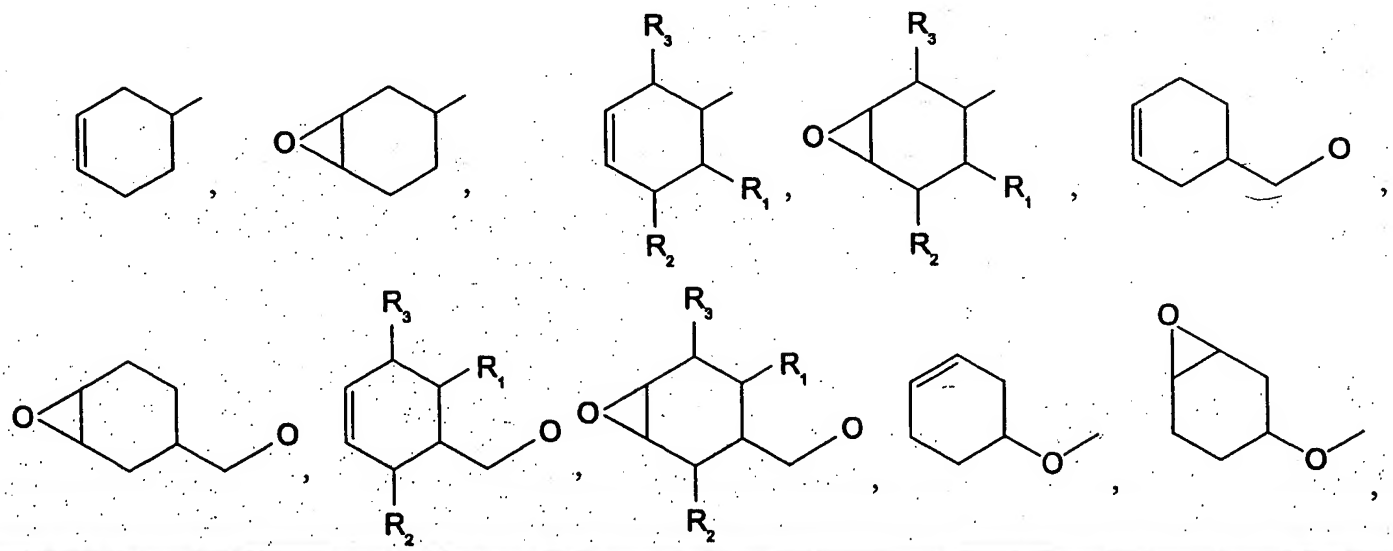
wherein,

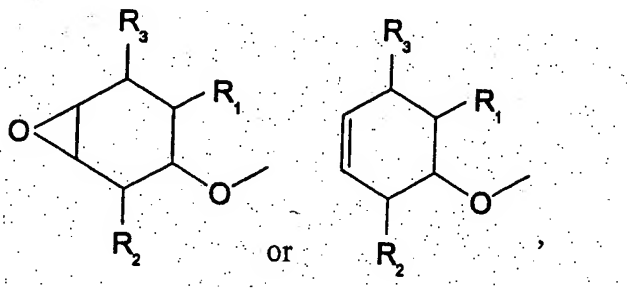
A_1 and A_2 are each a hydrogen, alkyl group, the completion of a cyclohexenyl group or one of the following structures bonding to 2 carbon atoms of the spiroorthocarbonate structure, namely at A_1 or A_2 and at a spiroorthocarbonate carbon atom adjacent thereto:



n_1 and n_2 are each 0 or 1,

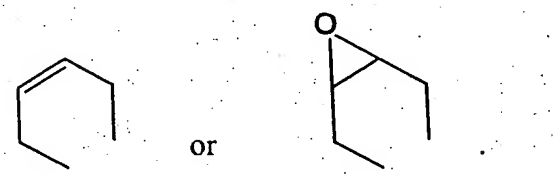
Z is an alkyl group or is one of the following structures



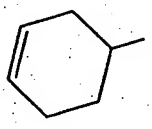


R_1, R_2 and R_3 are each a hydrogen or alkyl group; and

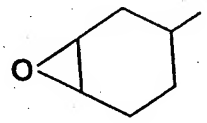
provided that if n_1 and n_2 both equal 0, then either A_1 or A_2 must be selected from the completion of a cyclohexenyl group, ~~$A_1 = A_2$ and $n_1 = n_2$, with the proviso that if A_1 and Z are both alkyl groups and $n_1 = 1$, then $n_2 = 0$ and A_2 is one of the following structures~~



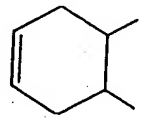
17. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure



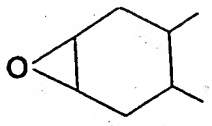
18. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure



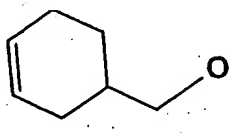
19. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure



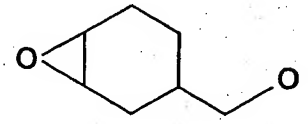
20. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure



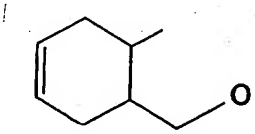
21. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure



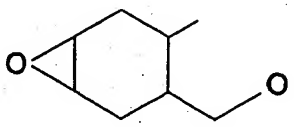
22. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure



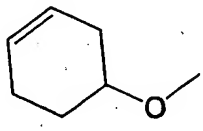
23. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure



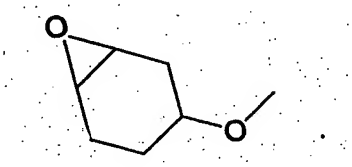
24. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure



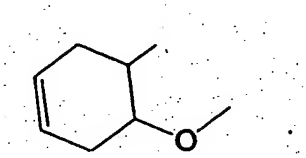
25. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure



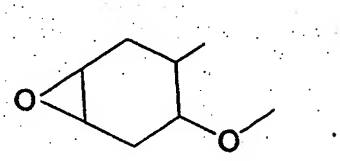
26. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure



27. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure

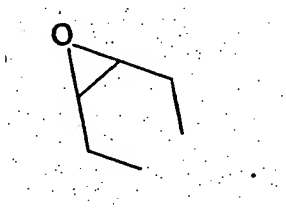


28. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein A_1 and A_2 = hydrogen and n_1 and n_2 = 1 and Z is the following structure

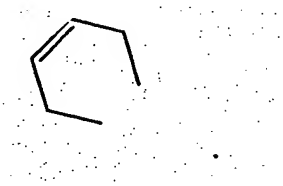


29. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein n_1 and n_2 = 0 and A_1 and A_2 are the following structure

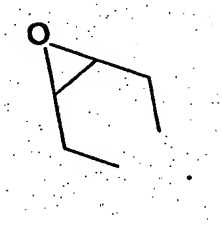
30. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein n_1 and $n_2 = 0$ and A_1 and A_2 are the following structure



31. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein $n_1 = 1$, A_1 and Z = ethyl groups, $n_2 = 0$ and A_2 is the following structure



32. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein $n_1 = 1$, A_1 and Z = ethyl groups, $n_2 = 0$ and A_2 is the following structure



33. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein R_2 and R_3 are each hydrogen and R_1 is a lower alkyl group.

34. (Original): The compound of claim 16 wherein R_2 and R_3 are each hydrogen and R_1 is a methyl group.

35. (Cancelled).